A

LETTER

FROM

JOHN PIGOTT, Esq;

TO

His FRIEND.

A

MEMBER of PARLIAMENT.

Shewing his Reasons for parting with his WIFE.

Ne quid falsi dicere Audeat,
Ne quid veri non Audeat.

DUBLIN:

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D U B L I N:

A LETTER, FROM JOHN PIGOTT, Esq; &c.

THE late Instance you have given me, of your Regard and Friendship for me, particularly, in your kind Advice and Information, of the various Chat of the Town, upon my Separation from my Wife; merits a better Acknowledgment, than I am able to make you: Scandal and Defamation is a Lot, that every Body in my unhappy Situation must expect to meet with, in some Degree; while on the other hand, Men, convicted of the most atrocious Crimes, will have their Advocates; some or other who will endeavour to excuse their Persons, or palliate their Guilt.

I am not at all surprized, that People talk differently of this Matter, for Reports founded on Conjecture, must consequently be, far remote from Truth. This is necessarily the Situation of my Case at present. As I have not yet, taken any publick Step, to inform the World, of the Particulars of this Affair, it was impossible for me fully to vindicate my own Character without laying open Mrs. *Pigott*'s Infirmities. This I wished to avoid; nay, I would still continue silent on the Subject of her Failings, were such a Conduct longer consistent with the Justification of myself. Wherefore, since you desire to know, by what Means I recovered my Plate, Mo-

ney, Goods, &c. I will relate to you faithfully the whole Affair, and then ſubmit my Caſe to your Opinion, and from the high Eſteem I have of your Judgment, and the Confidence I place in your Friendſhip; I give you Leave to make what Uſe you pleaſe of this Relation of plain Facts; and as you are in Town, and will conſequently hear, what is there ſaid concerning me, you will, I am ſure, do my Character all the Juſtice you can, and by ſuch Means as in Truth and in Friendſhip you may beſt deviſe.

It will not, I conceive, be improper (for your better Underſtanding) her Motives for marrying me; and the many extraordinary Methods ſhe practiſed by Letters, &c. for that Purpoſe, to let you know, the Circumſtances ſhe was in, at the Time I was thus deluded, by which it will plainly appear, ſhe fixt on me as a proper Tool, to practiſe her wicked Deſigns upon, and to relieve her from the Diſtreſſes ſhe was then plunged in, by Law-Suits, and by the abſence of *Leſlie Hamilton*, her Couſin German, her Adviſer, and her Attorney, who left this Kingdom, about the Time of my firſt Acquaintance with her; from whence it will be obvious, that Love or Honour had no Share in her matrimonial Deſigns.

Her former Husband, by Will, left her for Life, the Income of a Biſhop's Leaſe, called *Urny*, and a Houſe in *Strabane*, which is a Freehold, over and above her Jointure, but made no Proviſion for the Payment of his Debts, for what Reaſon I can't ſay; further than as I have heard it confidently aſſerted in the *North* where ſhe lived, that whenever her Husband received any Money, it was her conſtant Cuſtom to plunder him of a conſiderable Part, which laid him under a Neceſſity of borrowing ſeveral Sums, for which he paſſed his Bonds,

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but that his Fear of appriſing her of theſe his ſeveral Debts, prevented his making any Proviſion for the Payment thereof; inſomuch that ſoon after his Death, ſome of his Creditors ſeized by Executions, the Leaſe of *Urny*, being a Chattle Intereſt, and had it ſold, by the Sheriff of *Tyrone*, at *Omagh*.

Mrs. *Pigott*, then Mrs. *Babington*, afraid of loſing her Uſe for Life, employed the Reverend Mr. *Gage* her Brother in-law, to attend the Cant, and buy it for her, which he accordingly did, for two thouſand four hundred Pounds, and gave the Sheriff his Bond for that Money, by which ſhe made herſelf, or her Brother *Gage*, liable to her firſt Husband's Creditors, to the Value of that Sum, which was vaſtly more, than her Uſe for Life could amount to; ſhe was attacked likewiſe by *Ralph Babington*, Eſq; her late Husband's eldeſt Brother, for the Freehold, and for her Jointure; ſo that under theſe diſtreſſed Circumſtances (of which I had no Intimation) I was unfortunately tricked into a Marriage with her, the third of *Auguſt*, 1740; and the *November* following, I had ſeven Bills filed againſt me, by Mr. *Babington*'s Creditors, and in half a Year after my Marriage, I was attacked (as I am convinced by Mrs. *Pigott*'s Contrivance) not only by all Mr. *Babington*'s Creditors, but for perſonal Debts of her own contracting, amounting to eight hundred Pounds and upward; and had a Writ marked againſt me (the firſt I thank God that ever was) at the Suit of one *Span*, for an Hundred Pounds Mrs. *Pigott* owed him before ſhe became my Wife.

Hereupon I was compelled to pay, or ſecure to be paid nigh four thouſand Pound of the Debts of her and her firſt Husband, being near double the Value of her Uſe for Life, in the Chattle Intereſt;

and would you believe it, ſhe endeavoured at one Stroke to deprive me, and my Children, of the only Security I had, for the above-mentioned Sum, by ſtealing out of my Study the Biſhop's Leaſe, &c. which juſt before I had renewed with Doctor *Rundal* then Biſhop of *Derry*.

As to her Jointure, I never yet received a penny of it; but have been at great Expence at Law, for above eight Years, in endeavouring to eſtabliſh it for her; and it was not till laſt *May*, that by an Injunction, I got Poſſeſſion of Lands for the Payment of the Arrears.

Pray obſerve, that had I died before I was legally poſſeſſed of Lands to pay the Arrears; they belonged to Mrs. *Pigott*.

Further upon the Hearing in the *Exchequer*, as I conceived that her Marriage Articles and Settlement (with Mr. *Pilkington*) were neceſſary to be produced; I ſearched for them in my Study, where I had laid them, but they were not to be found, and Mrs. *Pigott* when aſked about them, offered to give her Oath, or take the Sacrament, ſhe knew nothing of them.

I likewiſe eſtabliſhed at Expence her late Husband's Will, by which ſhe has her Houſe in *Strabane*, beſide her Jointure. Theſe Services, as I imagined, merited ſome Returns of Gratitude, but I found the Reverſe in every Reſpect. She has, as I underſtand, a Brother-in-law, one *Archer*, who is, and has been for many Years in Goal, kept there by the Means (as 'tis ſaid) or Procurement of his Wife, and her Mother; and Mrs. *Pigott* reſolving to follow her Siſter's Example, from the plenitude of her Goodneſs to me, and my Children, left no

Means or Ways, ſhe could deviſe, untried; to put me into the ſame Situation; and often from the ſweetneſs of her Temper, has declared, ſhe would never reſt, till ſhe had ſettled me with *Archer*.

What Progreſs ſhe made in her honeſt Reſolutions, you may judge from the following Circumſtances; I never from the firſt Week of our Marriage, received any Money, that ſhe did not rob me of a Part; and I have catched her often at my Britches Pockets in the Night, to prevent which, at length I judged it expedient before I went to Bed, to lock up my Money in my Eſcrutore, which ſtood in a Cloſet, within a Bedchamber on the firſt Floor; after ſome time I found my Eſcrutore alſo robbed, then I removed it into my Study, within the Hall, on the Door of which, I had, as I imagined an excellent Lock, and tied the Key of my Eſcrutore, and Study together, and carried them conſtantly about me, yet notwithſtanding all this Precaution, I found I was ſtill robbed, not only of my Money, but of my valuable Papers, Shirts, Cloaths, and other Moveables; and I ſuffered at one Time for want of a Paper ſhe ſtole out of my Study, five hundred and fifty ſix Pounds.

In *March* 1746, Sir *Lawrence Parſons* went with me, to a little Country Houſe of mine, about ſeven Miles from *Dublin*, where we had not been above a Week, or ten Days, when on a *Monday* Morning, my Coachman by his Miſtreſs's Orders, came to inform me, that the Night before, my Houſe in *Abbey-Street* was robbed, and that moſt of my Plate was ſtolen; I thereupon came to Town, and found Mrs. *Pigott* in her Bed, in Appearance very ill, occaſioned, as ſhe ſaid, by her Concern for the Loſs I, and my Children had ſuſtained; I ſaid on the Occaſion all the tender and kind Things that a true Love could ſuggeſt, and was really more troubled for her ſeeming Indiſpoſition, than for my

own Loſs, as I imagined her Concern ſincere. Hereupon I took every Step that I conceived neceſſary for the Diſcovery of the Felons; I got the Lord Chief Juſtice's Warrant, and was out 'till three, four, or five o'Clock in the Morning, for a conſiderable Time, at the Peril of my Life, ſearching Night-Cellars, and all ſuſpected Places, &c. from *Kilmainham*, to the Bottom of *Lazer's-Hill*.

All my Endeavours proving fruitleſs, I gave over the Search, and all Thoughts of ever ſeeing my Plate again; and was not a little ſhocked, to find, a few Months after, that Mrs. *Pigott* and her Siſters, who I have too much Reaſon to think were her Confederates in all her Diſhoneſty, gave out that I robbed myſelf, and upon my obſerving how abſurd ſuch a Rumour was, as I was in the Country at the Time the Robbery was committed, Mrs. *Pigott* inſiſted, it was Art in me to be robbed at that Time, and that I had appointed People to rob the Houſe whilſt I was out of Town.

To this Scandal and much more, was I obliged patiently to ſubmit. In the End when I found Mrs. *Pigott* ſo bent upon the Ruin of me and my Children, that no kind Uſage or Obligations that I ſtudied to heap on her, could have any Effect; I removed with the Privity and Advice of Counſellor *Harding*, all my valuable Papers to his Houſe; but alas! I could not remove my Houſhold Furniture, Linen, and ſuch Things; they ſtill remained a Prey, and laſt *Chriſtmas* when I was in the Country, and had with me the Keys of my Eſcrutore and Study; I loſt out of the Drawers of my Eſcrutore, a new Shirt, with worked Ruffles, and an old Family Gold Signet Ring; upon miſſing them at my return, and aſking Mrs. *Pigott* if ſhe took them, ſhe offered to take her Oath, and the Sacrament ſhe never touched them, and knew nothing of them.

I had laid up in a ſtrong Oak Box, my firſt Wife's moſt valuable Things, ſuch as Laces, Trimmings, &c. for the uſe of her Children, the Key of which Box, I kept in one of the ſmall Drawers of my Eſcritore, and in the ſame Drawer, was a Liſt of the Things in the Box; a few Days after I miſſed my Shirt and Ring, I called my Children, (and Mrs. *Pigott* came with them) in order to give them ſuch Things of their Mother's as they ſhould judge then fit for them, out of the Box: But to my great Surprize the Box was robbed, and the moſt valuable Things were taken away, as was the Liſt out of the Drawer: I was under the utmoſt Conſternation and Difficulty how to act or what to deviſe, where I could preſerve no Part of my Subſtance from Plunder, when an unexpected Incident happened that brought about a fortunate Diſcovery; I had a Servant, who acted as Butler, when I was in Town, and attended me, when I went from Home: This Man it ſeems had been for a Year or two before, married to Mrs. *Pigott*'s Maid, of which I was quite ignorant; and Mrs. *Pigott* having ſometime before, conceived great Prejudice againſt the Man, and having on many Occaſions, treated him inhumanly, and wickedly, and having uſed all the harſh means, ſhe could Deviſe, to drive the Fellow out of the Houſe; her Maid who was his Wife, as I ſuppoſe, was thereat offended; which, added to her Miſtreſs's Behaviour to herſelf (for ſhe generally felt the daily weight of her Hands) were, I doubt not, her Motives for informing me that her Miſtreſs, ſhe was ſure, ſtole all the Things, I loſt, for that ſhe had falſe Keys, for my Study and Eſcritore. I aſked what Reaſon ſhe had to ſay ſo, and deſired ſhe would be cautious, how ſhe dare aver ſuch a thing of her Miſtreſs, without a proper Foundation, ſhe told me that very often

often her Miſtreſs made her ſlack down her Fire, and leave a whole Candle by her, under Pretence that ſhe could not Sleep, and would Read, and that ſhe uſed at ſuch Times to put on two Pair of my Woollen-Boot-Stockings, and two Bedgowns, and uſed to ſend her down to ſee if the Men Servants were in Bed and a Sleep, and when ſhe returned, ſhe uſed to order her to go immediately to Bed, which ſhe accordingly pretended to do, but that ſuſpecting her Miſtreſs had ſome Scheme in hand, ſhe ſat up to watch her, and that ſhe dog'd her to the Hall, and heard my Cloſet-Door open, when I was out of Town, and ſhe knew I had the Keys with me. I deſired ſhe would put me in ſome Method if ſhe could, of catching her in the Fact: She deſired, as I was lately come to Town, to drop ſome hint to her Miſtreſs, that I had received ſome Money in the Country, and to pretend ſome excuſe to lie alone, and that ſhe was ſure her Miſtreſs would go to my Study, and that ſhe would give me Notice thereof.

I did as ſhe deſired, and a few Nights after, about Twelve o'Clock, ſhe came to my Bedſide, waked me, and deſired me to Watch, for that her Miſtreſs was Cloathed as before mentioned, and ſhe was then going down, to ſee if the Men were in Bed and a Sleep: I watched accordingly, and between One and Two, I heard a Foot, going ſoftly down and obſerved a light under my Chamber Door; in ſhort, ſoon after, I caught her in my Cloſet, and the falſe Keys in the Door, which I have ſtill by me, I locked her in, and told her, I would keep her there till the next Morning; and would ſend for ſome of her Friends, and ſhew her to them, as ſhe then was: She in a moſt piteous Manner beſought me to let her out, and aſſured me, ſhe had ſomewhat of Moment to ſay to me. I was

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accordingly prevailed on by her Entreaties, and let her out, when ſhe fell on her Knees, and put her Hands about me, and implored my forgiveneſs and promiſed moſt fervently (if I would forgive her) a thorough reformation of Temper and Principle; and at the ſame Time promiſed to reſtore every Thing ſhe took from me. I was thus perſuaded to forgive her, and begg'd her not to expoſe herſelf to the Family, and that I would not: Theſe Engagements I ſtrictly performed on my Part, but when I expected a Completion of her promiſes alſo, and that ſhe would reſtore me what ſhe had taken from me, ſhe called me a Villain for ſuſpecting her, and ſaid ſhe was Jealous, and that it was only to ſee if I had any Letters.

Here I muſt beg your Pardon for a little Digreſſion. A very few Months after I was married, Mrs. *Pigott* ſollicited me, to lend one Mrs. *Davis*, her Couſin German, an hundred Pounds; I really had not ſo much Money by me, but as I had ſeverely felt the ſhocks of her bad Temper, bad indeed beyond Deſcription; and hoping by kind Acts to mollify her Conduct to me, I borrowed the hundred Pounds, at Mr. *Fade*'s Bank, for Mrs. *Davis*, and at the ſame Time got Mr. *John King*, then of the Poſt-Office, Brother-in-Law to Mrs. *Davis*, to paſs his Bond of Indemnity as my Security, and they having neglected to diſcharge either Principal or Intereſt at the Bank; a little before laſt Chriſtmas, Mr. *Wilcocks* wrote to me about it, and very juſtly inſiſted on its being immediately paid: I gave Mrs. *Pigott* his Letter to read, and deſired her to prevail on Mr. *King*, or Mrs. *Davis*, immediately to diſcharge my Bond, for that if I was forced to pay that Money, I would put Mr. *King*'s Bond in Suit againſt him; but as I was to be attacked in every ſhape that could bring ſpeedy Ruin on me and my Children, and the getting me

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into Goal, with her Brother-in-Law *Archer*, was the favourite Scheme and principal object she, her Sisters and Mother had in view, she stole *King*'s Bond.

It was the 30th of last *January*, that I detected her in my Closet, and the Morning after looking over my Papers, I missed the Bond; I told Mrs. *Pigott* she took it, but she denied it vehemently; I Insisted on her restoring it, for I said no Body could take it out of a Tin Case in my Escrutore, but she who had a Key to it; and at length she said, she would search among her Papers, and if she had it, she would give it me: I ordered a Person to watch her if she went out, and thought if I could find out where she had it, I might possibly get more of my Effects: This happened as I expected, for she went out the back way, down *Tucker*'s *Row*, and *Marlborough-street*, to one *James Gallagher*'s, who formerly lived with her, and keeps a little Shop on the left hand in *Abbey-street*, turning down to the *Ferry-Boat-Slip*, and brought from thence in her bosom Mr. *King*'s Bond, which she gave me. The Day after I searched *Gallagher*'s House and Shop; but in vain, I found nothing, I told Mrs. *Gallagher*, my cause of Suspicion, and desired her from that Time, to receive none of my Effects.

The Discovery of the false Keys, was as I said before the 30th of last *January*, there being on that Account a timely Stop put to her design of beggaring me and my Children; for that must unavoidably have been the Issue of her Proceedings had she not been detected. 'Tis highly probable the next Step she thought necessary, was how to Secure what she had already got, and at the same time to appropriate to her own Hands the great Arrear of Jointure that was due, for as I before observed, had

had I died before I was legally poſſeſſed of Lands for payment thereof, the Arrear of Jointure would conſequently have devolved on Mrs. *Pigott*, and my Death at the time it was intended would effectually have ſerved her Purpoſe. It would have ſecured what ſhe then had; It would have prevented the Diſcoveries I have ſince made; and it would have given her a right to the Arrear of Jointure, no ſmall inducements, let me tell you, to a covetous Mind, and many Murders have been committed for a leſs Præmium.

But to proceed, her favourite Scheme of Poiſon (as hereafter ſet forth in the ſeveral Affidavits) being not likely to take Effect, by her Confidant the Cook's declaring, that if any Accident of that kind happened to me, whilſt ſhe was in the Houſe, ſhe would diſcover of her, ſhe again relapſed into her pilfering Practice, and not able to come at Plate, Money, Bonds, Notes, &c. as before, ſhe was humbly Content, to play at ſmall Games, and deſcended ſo Low, as to ſteal Boxes of Candles, Pillows, Bolſters, Quilts, Blankets and the moſt trifling Moveables; and that ſame Mrs. *Gallagher*, uſed to carry them from my Houſe, and now it only remains to let you know, how I came to the knowledge of all this, and recovered what I did. I had a Servant who had lived with me between five and ſix Years, his Father was my Tenant and died laſt *May*, my Servant deſired leave to go to the Country to take Care of his Father's Farm, for without his Aſſiſtance, his Mother, he ſaid, could not manage it: I conſented, and laſt *June*, the Night before he was to go away, I called him to me, and told him if he conſidered my Behaviour toward him, he muſt be ſenſible that he was under great Obligations to me; eſpecially in not having him ſent to Priſon, on the Robbery of my Plate,

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and the many other Losses I had further sustained; and told him besides, as he was going to commence my Tenant, if he expected I should look on him as an honest Man, he must deserve that Character, by telling me, all he knew concerning the many Things I lost, for as he was much in his Mistress's Confidence, I was convinced he could tell me somewhat Material if he would; hereupon he expressed great Dread and Apprehension from his Mistress's Temper, of her doing him some Injury if he would make any Discovery; but by Arguments I at length got the better of his Apprehensions, and then he told me, his Mistress sent for him up to her Room, one Morning, and desired him to carry a large parcel of Table Cloaths and Sheeting, to *Mary Gallagher*'s, which he refused, saying as many Things were lost out of the House, if his Master should Chance to hear of it, he might perhaps examine him on Oath, and if he did, he must and would tell the Truth; his Mistress replied, you are right, go and call *Mary Gallagher* to me, which he did, and told me that *Mary Gallagher* came there empty, and went back loaded, and that she did the like very often, and a few Nights before, his Mistress sent him for *Mary Gallagher*, that when he went, *Mary Gallagher* desired him to keep her Shop for her till she returned, which he did, and saw *Mary Gallagher* bring out of my House, two Boxes, like Candle Boxes, and a Bag, and carry them up Stairs, in a Baker's facing her own Shop; he likewise told me that the Day after I searched *Gallagher*'s House, *Mary Gallagher* informed Mrs. *Pigott* of it, and Mrs. *Pigott*, asked her if she had no Friend whom she could Trust, in whose Lodging she might keep such Things as she gave her, till she could have Opportunity of removing them elsewhere, and that *Mary Gallagher* having an Intimacy with a Woman

man that lodged on the First-floor at the Baker's, she carried them there; and the Servant advised me to search that Woman's Lodging, and said, he verily believed I would find most of the Things I loſt, and perhaps my Plate too; but I fixed on another Scheme, which anſwered better.

I firſt ſent him, in his Miſtreſs's Name, to *Mary Gallagher*, for the Boxes and Things ſhe had of her's; *Mary Gallagher* aſked him, if he was ſure, he came from his Miſtreſs and not from his Maſter, he aſked her, why ſhe ſhould doubt his being ſent by his Miſtreſs? Did his Maſter ever ſend him of any Meſſage to her? And was he not the only Perſon his Miſtreſs ever ſent to her? She no longer doubting, went over the Way with him to the Baker's, and gave him a hair Trunk, two Candle-Boxes, and a Bagg full, which he brought to me; I ſent him back again, in his Miſtreſs's Name, to deſire the reſt of the Things, *Mary Gallagher* ſaid to him, what the Devil does ſhe mean? Sure her Siſter *Ball*'s Maid, carried the reſt of the Things from me ſometime ago; and ſhe knows very well, I have nothing more in my Charge at this Time, than what I already ſent her. When the Boy returned with that Anſwer, I got the Trunk, and Boxes into my Study, and on opening the Trunk, I found to my great Surprize, all my firſt Wife's Laces, Trimmings, Equipage, *&c.* which were taken out of the Oak Box as before mentioned. I there found a Liſt of the Plate, I had loſt in Mrs. *Pigott's* Hand writing, as alſo my Gold Signet-Ring, Mrs. *Pigott's* Marriage Articles, and Settlement, before mentioned, a great many Papers that were taken out of my Study, ſeveral Letters of Buſineſs, and Importance from my Agent, and others, which ſhe had Intercepted, and had never reached my Hands; there alſo I found the Rev. Mr. *John Gage*'s Bond, for Sixty Pounds, and a Truſt declared for his own Daugh-

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ter *Mildred Gage*, another Bond of an Hundred Pounds, lent Mr *William Smith* and Mr *Jos. Archer*, and a Truſt declared on that, for her Siſter *Ball*, a Note of Twenty Pounds of her Siſter *Gage*'s; and to both the Bonds, good Mrs. *Archer* was a Subſcribing Witneſs, and ſeveral other Notes, and many more Things too tedious here to mention; all which were Stolen from me, and Confeſſed by Mrs. *Pigott* to be ſo; the Boxes and Baggs Contained nothing but Candles; I took the Trunk that Night, to Counſellor *Harding*'s, he and I lookt it over, and the next Day on the Servant's Examination and mine, I procured a Warrant againſt *Mary Gallagher*, and had her arreſted.

Whilſt ſhe was in Cuſtody, ſhe wrote to Mrs. *Pigott*, who was ſo frightened leſt ſhe ſhou'd be expoſed by *Mary Gallagher*'s being brought to a publick Trial, that ſhe confeſs'd the Injuſtice ſhe had done me, and ſhe bound herſelf by an Oath, to reſtore me all the Plate, Money, and Goods, ſhe had ever robbed me off, if I would diſcharge *Mary Gallagher*; Experience having taught me not to rely much (I am ſorry to ſay it) on Mrs. *Pigott*'s Word or Oath, as to my great Misfortune I have had too much Reaſon to think ſhe won'd Stick at nothing to gain her Ends; I accordingly acted warily which was fortunate for me, for I did not diſcharge Mrs. *Gallagher*, but admitted her to bail, and Mrs. *Pigott* believing ſhe was quite diſcharged, relapſed immediately into her former Temper and Tricks, and denied every Thing ſhe before had confeſſed; whereupon I went to *Gallagher*'s Houſe, and told her as the Commiſſion was then ſitting, I would inſiſt on her being brought in by her Bail, and told her that as Mrs. *Pigott* had not yet complied with the Condition of her being quite diſcharged, I had good Reaſon to think ſhe never intended it; and that if ſhe did not prevail on Mrs. *Pigott* to perform, what ſhe had bound

herſelf

herſelf by Oath to do, ſhe actually ſhould go next Day to Goal. *Mary Gallagher* accordingly wrote to Mrs. *Pigott*, and a few Days after, Mrs. *Pigott* brought me home the following Linnen and Plate, the new worked ruffle Shirt and ſix others, with ſeveral Things not worth mentioning here, tho' to me, Inſtances of her extraordinary Meanneſs.

PLATE.

1 Imboſſed Cup and Cover,
1 Large plain Cup and Cover,
1 Large Muntaffe,
1 Large Waiter,
2 Small Ditto,
2 Pair of Candleſticks,
1 Large Salver,
2 Small Ditto,
1 Tea-Pot, Tea-Diſh and Croſs,
1 Cream Sauce-Pan,
2 Snuff-Diſhes,
1 Pair of Snuffers,
1 Cruit, Ring and Caſters,
2 Pint Cans,
1 Soup-Ladle,
1 Punch Ditto,
3 Salts,
1 Solatoir,
1 Strainer.

LINNEN.

6 Pair of fine Sheets,
2 Pair of coarſe Ditto,
11 Pillow-Caſes,
13 Fine Diaper Table-Cloaths,
4 Small fine Ditto,
10 Fine Diaper Napkins.

I was determined at that Time to cohabit with her no longer, and ſo I told her; and that ſhe or her Friends might have no Occaſion of Complaint, I ſpoke to ſome of them touching my Intention, and particularly to Mrs. *Steward* her Aunt, and told her I was willing, to give her up her Jointure, and her houſe in *Strabane*, and at the ſame Time, gave Mrs. *Steward* Twenty Guineas, to give her, for her immediate Support. Hereupon her Aunt came to my Houſe, and told her Niece, as I ſuppoſe, her Errand: After ſome Time ſpent together, Mrs. *Steward*, for whom I have a great Regard, deſired to ſpeak to me; I went up to her, and ſhe and her Niece with Tears, Promiſes and Entreaties, got the better of my Weakneſs, and again I was prevailed on to forgive her; I did ſo, but was not then apprized of the Diſcovery I have ſince made of her Attempt on my Life as mention'd in the following Affidavits, to which I referr you.

Queen's-County, to wit. } Margaret Matthews, *a Proteſtant of the Church of* Ireland, *as by Law eſtabliſhed.*

WHO being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangeliſts depoſeth, That ſhe was hired as a Cook by Mrs. *Catherine Pigott*, Wife to *John Pigott*, Eſq; in *April*, 1745, whilſt the ſaid *John Pigott* was in *England*, and that ſhe hath lived with her in that Station ever ſince; and that ſhe was much in her Confidence, and often thereby put on Things diſagreeable to her; ſhe ſwears her ſaid Miſtreſs hath often given her poiſon, with orders, to give it to her Maſter's favourite Setters, and Pointers; but that thinking it cruel, ſhe pretended to have given it, but threw the Poiſon into the Fire, and that her Miſtreſs finding they did not die as ſhe expected, ſhe poiſon'd them herſelf; and

and according to this Deponent's Recollection, ſince ſhe liv'd in the Family, there were poiſoned by her Miſtreſs, and her procurement, ſix or ſeven Setters and Poynters, and that ſoon after her Miſtreſs came laſt Year from *Barrymount*, ſhe Informed this Deponent, that her Maſter had given Twelve Guineas for a Dog, and then gave her a Doſe of Poiſon, to give ſaid Dog, which ſhe inform'd her Miſtreſs ſhe had given him, tho' the Truth is, ſhe thought it ſo Cruel and Wicked, that ſhe threw the Poiſon into the Fire, and the Dog not dying as her Miſtreſs expected, her Miſtreſs then told her, ſhe feared the Poiſon was grown too weak, as ſhe had it by her a long Time, but that ſhe would immediately get freſh: She further Depoſeth that her Miſtreſs's Behaviour and Temper to her Maſter, was on all Occaſions ſo bad, that ſhe took every Occaſion to diſoblige and vex him; one Inſtance of which, was her Maſter being fond of Game-Cocks, he had at *Weſpanſtown*, his Country Houſe, in the County of *Dublin*, a good many at one Time, in the Barn; and that her Miſtreſs ſent her out, at Twelve o'Clock at Night, and gave her large Pins, with Orders to run one into the Back of the Head of each Cock, which ſhe this Deponent thinking cruel omitted doing, but told her Miſtreſs ſhe had obey'd her orders, with which her Miſtreſs ſeem'd well pleaſed; another Night in *Dublin* her Maſter being late out, her Miſtreſs told her ſhe intended robbing that Night, her Maſter's Cloſet, and ſaid ſhe would Drop one or two of his Shirts into the Area, before the Houſe, and deſired this Deponent, to Cry out early in the Morning, that the Houſe was robbed, which ſhe ſaid would deceive Mr. *Pigott*, and make him believe, he was robbed by Rogues from the Street, but this Deponent abſolutely refuſed joining or conſenting thereto; and leſt her Miſtreſs ſhould rob the Cloſet,

as ſhe propos'd, this Deponent deſired *Charles Roe* her Maſter's Man, to ſit up all Night in the Hall and watch his Maſter's Cloſet, but did not tell him her Reaſons for it: And this deponent further ſaith that in ſome Law Affair her Miſtreſs, would have had her take a falſe Oath, to the Prejudice of her Maſter, and his Children, as ſhe this Deponent underſtood, by her Miſtreſs's Diſcourſe, and told her ſhe muſt go to Court, if ſhe valued her Love and Friendſhip, and ſwear, that a black Spot, ſhe once ſhewed her, on her Hip, her Maſter had given her; which this Deponent abſolutely refuſed to do, and ſaid good God, how can I ſwear that my Maſter ſtruck you, when I never knew him lift his hand againſt you; and beſides you told me you got the black Spot, you ſhewed me, by riding behind *John Dunn* the Coachman from *Weſpanſtown*, on one of the Coach Horſes: No Matter for that, ſaid her Miſtreſs, you muſt do what I ſay; which Deponent abſolutely refuſed, and told her Miſtreſs ſhe would not take a falſe Oath for the Univerſe. This Deponent further ſaith, that ſometime laſt Spring, when her Maſter was buſy about Cocks, her Maſter came home one Night, much in Liquor, and went to the little Houſe, and puk'd there, and when he was help'd to his Bed-Chamber, which was a two pair of Stairs Room ſtreetward, where he and her Miſtreſs then ſlept, her Miſtreſs aſk'd her, if ſhe had any Meat in the Houſe, fit to make Broth of, for her Maſter who was very ſick. Whereupon this Deponent ſtar'd at her Miſtreſs, for her pretended Care of her Maſter, well knowing ſhe had no love in her Heart for him, and told her ſhe had not Meat in the Houſe fit to make Broth; her Miſtreſs therefore bid her go over the Way, to Mrs. *Careleſs* the Butcher, and get ſome Mutton, from her for Broth, which this Deponent accordingly did, and brought over a Neck of Mutton,

and

and on her entering the Houſe, ſhe was call'd up Stairs by her Miſtreſs: And this Deponent believing her Miſtreſs was in her own Room, two Pair of Stairs ſtreetward, ſhe was going up the ſecond Flight of Stairs, when her Miſtreſs open'd the Chamber-Door, next the Dining-Room, on the firſt Floor, and called her into the Room, and ſhut the Door on her, and bid her immediately chop a little Bit of the Mutton, and make a ſmall Cann of Broth of it, and drawing from out of her Boſom a Paper which ſeem'd to contain a Powder, offered it to this Deponent, and deſired her to put it into the Broth, and ſaid ſhe would make Mr. *Pigott* take it: This Deponent apprehending it was Poiſon (as ſhe does in her Conſcience believe it was) fell on her Knees, and with uplifted Hands, intreated and beſeeched her Miſtreſs, not to urge her to do; ſuch a wicked Act, for ſhe would not for the World, be concerned in ſuch an Affair; and at the ſame Time declared on her Conſcience, if ſhe did any ſuch wicked Thing, or that any violent Death, befel her Maſter, ſhe would tell: Whereupon her Miſtreſs call'd her a fool, and ſaid it was only a Powder to compoſe him, and that it would perhaps make him ſleep ſix or eight and forty Hours, by which he would loſe the Cocking; but ſhe this Deponent, obſtinately perſiſting in her refuſal of her Miſtreſs's deſire, and declaring ſhe would tell, her Miſtreſs turn'd pale and trembled, and angrily, and haſtily ſaid, what would you expoſe and ruin me, you Wretch, and thereupon took up a large Bible covered with Ratteen, which always ſtood, in her Miſtreſs's own Bed-Chamber, two Pair of Stairs Streetward, and which this Deponent verily believes, ſhe brought down to the Workt-room on that Occaſion, and putting her Back to the Door, and taking her by the Shoulder, inſiſted on this Deponent's ſwearing on

that Bible, ſhe would never Diſcover what paſt that Night between them; which Oath ſhe was forced to ſwear, before her Miſtreſs would let her out of her Room. And this Deponent further ſaith, ſhe was ſo ſhock'd at all her Miſtreſs's deſigns, that ſhe hath been very uneaſy, and hath often ſince mentioned to her Fellow Servants, and others, as much of her Miſtreſs's wickedneſs as ſhe could, from the Oath of Secrecy impoſed on her; and this Deponent further ſaith, this diſcovery and Affidavit is voluntary, and the only Motive ſhe hath for ſo doing, is to eaſe her Mind and Conſcience, and to prevent any evil that might hereafter happen by concealing it.

Sworn before me this 16th *Day*
of *September*, 1749.

Margaret Matthews.

W. WESTENRA.

I do certifie that *Margaret Matthews* received the *Holy Sacrament* from my Hands, in the Pariſh Church of *Stradbally*, this 15th Day of *October*, 1749, and immediately after declared, by Vertue thereof, that the Contents of the above Affidavit are ſtrictly true in every Reſpect.

JAMES HIGGINS Vicar of *Stradbally*.

Queen's County to wit. } George Duff, *a Proteſtant of the Church of* Ireland, *as by Law eſtabliſhed.*

WHO being duly ſworn on the *Holy Evangeliſts*, Depoſeth that he lived with *John Pigott*, Eſq; and *Catharine* his Wife, as Footman, between five and ſix Years, and left their Service the 20th of *June* laſt, and that he hath read the Affidavit that *Margaret Matthews* made, before *Warner Weſtenra*, Eſq; and believes it ſtrictly true, becauſe he knows and remembers,

moſt

moſt of the Charges there to be ſo, and very well remembers that ſometime laſt Spring when his Maſter was buſied about Cocks, he came home one Night much in Liquor, and went to the Little-Houſe, and puk'd there, and that he this Deponent help'd him up to his Bedchamber, two Pair of Stairs Streetward, where he and his Miſtreſs then ſlept, undreſſed him, and put him to Bed, and ſaith, that his Maſter was in high good Humour, and joked with him, and told this Deponent, whilſt he was pulling off his Stockings, that he would render him the ſame Service, whenever he was in the ſame Condition: And this Deponent further ſaith, that in leſs than half an Hour after, according to this Deponent's Remembrance and Belief, *Margaret Matthews* the Cook came down Stairs, crying into the back Kitchen, where this Deponent then was; this Deponent aſked her what was the matter with her, and her Miſtreſs, and what it was, her Miſtreſs would have had her ſwear to, for that as he this Deponent, was coming down Stairs from putting his Maſter to Bed, he thought he heard his Miſtreſs in the work't Bedchamber, next the Dining-Room, bid her ſaid *Matthews* kiſs the Book. Whereupon ſaid *Margaret Matthews* told him, her Miſtreſs had, to be ſure, forced her to take an Oath, not to tell what paſſed between then, but ſo much ſhe would venture to tell him, that her Miſtreſs, would have had her done that Night, a moſt wicked Thing, that would have brought her to the Gallows. And this Deponent concluded from the Confuſion, and Trouble ſaid *Matthews* appeared in, her Miſtreſs's ſwearing her to Secrecy, and believing his Miſtreſs capable of any Wickedneſs whatever, it was ſome Deſign againſt, or Attempt on his Maſter's Life; and thereupon ſaid, *O God! O God!* I wiſh we were well out of the Houſe, for I much fear that Devil of a Woman, will bring us into Trouble and Ruin. And this Deponent further ſaith, he hath often

heard ſaid *Matthews* ſay, ſhe would not tell whilſt ſhe lived in the Houſe, what it was her Miſtreſs would have had her done, but that ſhe would tell on her going away, if a Clergyman would give her leave. And this Deponent further ſaith, he has Reaſon to believe, that the old Servants of the Houſe as well as he, never doubted but his Miſtreſs had tampered with the Cook to poiſon his Maſter.

Sworn before me this 13th Day of *October*, 1749.

George Duff.

W. WESTENRA.

I do certifie that *George Duff* received the *Holy Sacrament* from my Hands, in the Pariſh Church of *Stradbally* the 15th Day of *October*, 1749, and immediately after declared by Vertue thereof that the Contents of the above Affidavit are ſtrictly true in every particular.

JAMES HIGGINS Vicar of *Stradbally.*

Queen's County to wit. } Mary Revill, *a Proteſtant of the Church of* Ireland, *as by Law eſtabliſhed.*

WHO being duly ſworn on the *Holy Evangeliſts*, Depoſeth ſhe hath lived with Mrs. *Pigott*, Wife to *John Pigott*, Eſq; three Years laſt *Auguſt*, in the Quality or Station of her own Maid, and hath that whole time liv'd in the ſame Houſe, with *Margaret Matthews*, in great intimacy, and that ſhe hath read the Affidavit ſaid *Margaret Matthews* made before *Warner Weſtenra*, Eſq; one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace of ſaid County. And that ſhe in her Conſcience, believes it to be true, becauſe ſhe temembers well, ſaid *Matthews* very often declared, within theſe ſix Months, when ſhe

ſhe was in great Favour and Intimacy with her Miſtreſs, that her Miſtreſs was the wickedeſt Woman living; and that her Miſtreſs endeavoured to perſwade her to do a wicked Thing, which if ſhe had done, might have brought her to the Gallows, or a Stake, or Words to that Effect. But that as her Miſtreſs had forced her to take an Oath of Secrecy, ſhe could not then tell what it was, but declared ſhe would ſoon quit her Service, and that before ſhe left it, ſhe would eaſe her Mind and Conſcience, by telling all ſhe knew. And this Deponent further ſaith, ſhe well remembers whenever her Maſter within theſe ſix Months, found fault with ſaid *Matthews*, and ſcolded her, that when his Back was turned, ſaid *Matthews* uſed to ſay, if her Maſter knew how much ſhe had been his Friend, or the great Service ſhe had done him, he would not ſcold her, but think himſelf much obliged to her, or Words to that Effect. And this Deponent further ſaith, ſhe often heard ſaid *Matthews* ſay, ſhe would go to ſome Clergyman and know, if the Oath ſhe was forced by her Miſtreſs to take was binding; and this Deponent further ſaith, ſhe often endeavoured to find out by ſundry Methods, what that terrible Affair was, which ſaid *Matthews* had ſwore to keep Secret, and had often vowed to diſcover; and that from what this Deponent could ever diſcover, from ſaid *Matthews*'s Diſcourſe and Threats, ſhe concluded it was ſome Attempt on the Life of her Maſter; and told her ſaid Maſter ſo, before ſaid *Matthews* made this Diſcovery.

Sworn before me this 16th Day of *September*, 1749.

Mary Revill.

W. WESTENRA.

I do

I do certifie that *Mary Revill*, received the *Holy Sacrament* from my Hands in the Pariſh Church of *Stradbally*, this 15th Day of *October*, 1749, and that immediately after, ſhe declared by Vertue thereof that the Contents of the above Affidavit are ſtrictly true in every particular.

JAMES HIGGINS, Vicar of *Stradbally*.

Queen's County to wit. } Charles Row, *a Proteſtant of the Church of* Ireland, *as by Law eſtabliſhed.*

WHO being duly ſworn on the *Holy Evangeliſts*, depoſeth he hath lived with *John Pigott* Eſq; as his own Servant and Butler, three Years laſt *January*, and that he knows *Margaret Matthews* very well and that he hath read the Affidavit, ſhe had made before *Warner Weſtenra* Eſq; one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for ſaid County, and believes the Contents to be true; becauſe he remembers and oftentimes remarked, *Margaret Matthews* ſaying, that her Miſtreſs was, a wicked Woman, and this at a Time when ſaid *Matthews* ſeemed to be, the greateſt Favourite with her Miſtreſs of any Servant in the Houſe: And ſaid Deponent further ſaith, that within theſe ſix Months, he hath often heard ſaid *Matthews* ſay, that her Miſtreſs had forced her to ſwear, to conceal a very wicked Thing, and often wiſhed, ſhe was well out of the Houſe, for ſhe feared her Miſtreſs would bring her to the Gallows or a Stake; or Words to that Effect. And this Deponent often heard ſaid *Matthews* ſay, ſhe would conſult a Clergyman, whether ſhe ought to regard her Oath, as her Miſtreſs had forced her to take it; and ſo, often ſaid to that or the like Effect. That he this Deponent concluded within himſelf, her great Secret could mean nothing leſs,

leſs, than an Attempt or a Deſign on his Maſter's Life, and this Deponent verily believes *Margaret Matthews* incapable of taking a falſe Oath, and that he always looked upon her as a ſober Honeſt Woman; and this Deponent further ſaith, ſaid *Matthews* often informed him, that his Miſtreſs frequently ſwore, and wiſhed that God might never receive her Soul, but ſhe would give him a Doſe; and ſaid *Matthews* directed him this Deponent on his Peril, never to taſte of any kind of Liquor, which ſhe ever touched, which Advice this Deponent ſtrictly obſerved.

Sworn before me this 16th of *September*, 1749.

Charles Row.

W. WESTENRA.

I do certifie that *Charles Row* received the *Holy Sacrament* from my Hands, in the Pariſh Church of *Stradbally*, this 15th of *October*, 1749, and that immediately after he declared by Vertue thereof that the Contents of the above Affidavit are ſtrictly true in every reſpect.

JAMES HIGGINS Vicar of *Stradbally.*

County of the City of Dublin, *To wit.*

JOHN STOYTE and *Elizabeth* his Wife, both Proteſtants of the Church of IRELAND, as by Law eſtabliſhed, came this Day before me and made Oath, on the Holy Evangeliſts, that laſt Spring *Margaret Matthews*, Cook to *John Pigott*, Eſq; came one Morning to the Houſe of theſe Deponents, whilſt they were at Breakfaſt, and ſhewing ſome ſign of Trouble in her Countenance, was aſked by this Deponent *John*, what was the Matter with

with her, and if any thing bad had happened to her, or words to that Effect: Whereupon ſaid *Matthews*, ſaid ſhe was greatly ſhocked and Diſtreſſed at ſomething that her Miſtreſs would have had her done the Night before, and further ſaid, her Miſtreſs was, ſhe believed, the wickedeſt Woman in the World; but that ſhe could not tell what the Affair was, becauſe her Miſtreſs had forced her to take an Oath not to Diſcover it, upon which theſe Deponents gueſſing by the diſcourſe of ſaid *Matthews*, that the Affair ſhe mentioned, could mean no leſs, than ſome Attempt on, or Deſign, againſt the Life of *John Pigott*, her ſaid Maſter, deſired her ſaid *Matthews* to quit immediately her Service, or that her Miſtreſs would bring her to a Stake or the Gallows.

Sworn before me this 3d *Day* of *October*, 1749.
John Stoyte.
Elizabeth Stoyte.

HENRY BURROWS.

Self preſervation, the ſtrongeſt Principle implanted in human Nature, obliged me on this Diſcovery to part with her, and I do confeſs to you, notwithſtanding all I had ſuffered from her Temper and Principle, (and ſurely no Man ever ſuffered more) I parted however, with Regret and Concern, nor is the Shock I endured on that Occaſion to be expreſſed by Words. I never had from the Time of my Marriage, till ſince I recovered my Plate, the leaſt glimmering Proſpect of Peace or Happineſs; but her Conduct and Behaviour, was ſo altered ſince that Time for the better, that I enjoyed a pleaſure and Satisfaction in her, to which my Heart had been wholly a Stranger before. I had moreover removed her to the Country, from the Society and Councils of wicked People, and from

from Receivers and Confederates, and ſhe on her Part had ſwore on the Bible, never more to deprive me or my Children, of any part of our Property, and to treat me well in every Reſpect: But upon the above mentioned Diſcovery, fear and dread of undergoing an unnatural Death by Poiſon, and thereby leaving my dear Children, the Pledges of my Love, by a moſt excellent Woman (now an Angel in Heaven) to fall perhaps a Sacrifice in like manner to her inſatiable Avarice; or at beſt to Combat the evils of this Life, from Poverty brought on them, by a Deſigning Wicked Stepmother, which ſeemed plainly to be the intent of her whole Conduct, from the firſt Week of our Marriage, notwithſtanding her hypocritical outward Behaviour to my Children, aſſumed merely to deceive the World and Gloſs over her wicked Deſigns; and I could give many extraordinary Inſtances of her little regard for them, were it not that I have already ſwelled this far beyond my firſt Intention.

Theſe Conſiderations I ſay weighed ſo powerfully with me, and the Convictions of the Truth of the Charge againſt her, operated ſo ſtrongly on my Mind, that it determined me to do what I did. I muſt beg Leave to obſerve to you, I have entreated Mrs. *Pigott* (who acknowledges every thing in the Cook's Affidavit to be true; but what relates to the Broth and the Powders.) in all my Letters to her ſince we parted, to put that Affair into a courſe of Enquiry, and have adviſed her to procure ſome ſenſible proper Friend of her own, to examine theſe People on their Oaths Separately, or in whatever Manner ſhe ſhould think moſt conducive to her own advantage; and as nothing in Life would give me more pleaſure than a Manifeſtation of her Innocence, I would

would chearfully contribute thereto all I could; but that ſhe declines doing, as may appear by her Letter to me of 7th of *October*, 1749, in the Words following, "my not ſtirring in the Affair "was by proper Advice, and your putting it "upon me, is not ſo well thought of by Many, "as you think of it yourſelf."

When I conſider her Conduct to me, in every reſpect, ſince the Day after my Marriage, and how much ſhe is under the Dominion of inordinate Paſſion; the Impetuoſity of which has frequently carried her into outrageous Madneſs: When I conſider the Sordidneſs and Avaritiouſneſs of her Temper; when I conſider that the People who have voluntarily Sworn the Affidavits I ſend you, can have no Motive in Life for their ſo doing but from a Principle of Juſtice, and to prevent any evil that might ariſe hereafter from her wicked Deſigns; and, when I further conſider the unkind uſe ſhe made of Poiſon to deſtroy my Dogs, merely becauſe they coſt me Money, and were fond of me; and laſtly, when I conſider, that my Death, laſt Spring, for Reaſons before mentioned, would have enriched her and her Confederates, more than if it had happened at any other Time before or ſince; I am not permitted even to doubt of her Guilt, however, I wiſh to ſee her Innocence made apparent. Thus, Sir, have I related without the dreſs of Language or Ornaments of Rhetorick, not a ſyllable but matters of Fact, and much more equally bad and Diſhoneſt I could relate. But this at preſent may ſuffice, and if upon the whole my Conduct ſhall be juſtified in your Opinion, I ſhall eſteem it a particular Happineſs,

To Sir, &c.

October the 20*th*,
1749.

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